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STUDY OF CHARITY STATISTICS.

The *Labor Bulletin of Massachusetts* (October, 1899. No. 12) contains a very valuable "Study of Charity Statistics" (pp. 119-155). The statistics are derived from the records of 2636 families within the districts covered by the friendly visitors of the Associated Charities of Boston. These families are separated into two classes, namely, 1000 visited for two years or more, and 1636 which were new to the district visitors during the year ending May 31, 1899. The latter group is also subdivided into two sections, one made up of families absolutely not known to have received charity before June 1, 1898, and the other, of families who have at some time prior to the year been known to charity, though new to the district workers who collected the statistical data. The analysis considers the conjugal condition of families, ages, number of room occupied, illiteracy, nativity of heads of families, causes of distress, decisions as to relief, the aged poor, married couples, widows and women divorced, deserted wives, and widowers. Of chief interest is the table dealing with the causes of distress. On this point the statistics may be summarized as follows:—

Classification of Causes of Distress.	1,000 Families Not New This Year.	742 Known to Charity Before June 1, 1898.	875 Not Known to Any Charity Before June 1, 1898.
	<i>Percentages.</i>	<i>Percentages.</i>	<i>Percentages.</i>
Within the family.....	89.00	90.14	86.74
Disregard of family ties.....	5.70	7.26	7.77
Intemperance.....	29.30	27.53	15.43
Licentiousness.....	3.30	3.84	6.28
Dishonesty, or other moral defects....	2.20	2.74	5.26
Lack of thrift, industry, or judgment	10.80	19.04	16.34
Physical or mental defects.....	4.40	4.11	4.80
Sickness, accident, or death.....	33.30	25.62	30.86
Outside the family.....	9.60	9.18	12.69
Lack of employment, not employé....	9.00	7.67	10.74
Defective sanitation.....	0.13	0.12
Degrading surroundings.....	0.10	0.28
Unwise philanthropy.....	0.10	0.28	0.23
Public calamity.....	0.10	0.12
Persecution in own country.....	0.30	0.41	0.23
Volunteer service in U. S. Army....	0.41	1.25
Lack of training for work.....	1.40	0.68	0.57